

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

UNCLAS STATE 108151

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ELTN, CO

SUBJECT: AFTOSA CONTROL

1. FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF LETTER DATED APRIL 11, 1978 FROM P. R. "BOBBY" SMITH, ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR MARKETING SERVICES, USDA, TO JOAQUIN VANIN TELLO, MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WHICH WE UNDERSTAND HAS BEEN DELIVERED TO THE MINISTER.

2. BEGIN TEXT. THIS IS IN REPLY TO YOUR LETTER OF FEBRUARY 6, 1978, REGARDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A GOVERNMENT OF COLOMBIA (GOC) RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH A COLOMBIAN MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE JOINT COMMISSION. THE COMMISSION WOULD BE FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONTROLLING AND ERADICATING FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE IN CERTAIN ZONES OF NORTHWESTERN COLOMBIA, AND FOR PREVENTING THE SPREAD OF THIS DISEASE FROM COLOMBIA AS A RESULT OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE DARIEN GAP HIGHWAY.

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IN THIS REGARD, WE HAVE REVIEWED, IN DEPTH, YOUR DRAFT RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH A JOINT COMMISSION. SERIOUS DIFFERENCES REMAIN BETWEEN YOUR PROPOSAL AND OUR SUGGESTIONS FOR THE OPERATION OF AN

AUTONOMOUS JOINT COMMISSION. THESE DIFFERENCES ARE

PRIMARILY IN THE AREA OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT. WE FEEL, HOWEVER, THAT SOME PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE TO REORGANIZE THE PRESENT PROJECT SO THAT IT MAY OPERATE MORE EFFECTIVELY.

WE UNDERSTAND THAT, FOR LEGAL REASONS, YOU PREFER TO WORD THE RESOLUTION AS PROPOSED IN YOUR LETTER OF FEBRUARY 6, 1978. HOWEVER, WE HAVE SERIOUS RESERVATIONS WHETHER THE PROJECT WILL BE ABLE TO OPERATE EFFECTIVELY WITHOUT COMPLETE CONTROL OVER PERSONNEL ACTIONS.

THE GENERAL MANAGER AND STAFF OF THE COLOMBIAN AGRICULTURAL INSTITUTE (ICA) HAVE ASSURED OUR REPRESENTATIVES IN COLOMBIA THAT REQUIRING THE SIGNATURE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER OF ICA OR THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF RENEWABLE NATURAL RESOURCES AND OF THE ENVIRONMENT (INDERENA) ON PERSONNEL ACTIONS INVOLVING HIRING AND DISMISSAL IS ONLY A LEGAL FORMALITY. THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE JOINT COMMISSION AND THE USDA SENIOR TECHNICAL ADVISOR WILL HAVE COMPLETE FREEDOM TO OPERATE IN THIS REGARD. IN ADDITION, OUR REPRESENTATIVES WERE ASSURED THAT THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND SENIOR TECHNICAL ADVISOR WILL BE ABLE TO SELECT AND ADJUST SALARIES AS LONG AS THEY REMAIN WITHIN THE RANGE ESTABLISHED BY YOUR CIVIL SERVICE

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DEPARTMENT. IF THESE ASSURANCES CAN BE GIVEN TO US AS A SEPARATE LETTER OF UNDERSTANDING, WE WILL ACCEPT YOUR PROPOSED RESOLUTION WITH ARTICLES 13, 20, AND 22 WRITTEN AS SHOWN IN ANNEX NO. 3 (ANALYSIS OF PROJECTED RESOLUTIONS ESTABLISHING THE ORGANIZATION AND OPERATION OF ICA-INDERENA-USDA JOINT COMMISSION) OF YOUR JANUARY 23, 1978, LETTER TO AMBASSADOR DIEGO ASECIO.

FOLLOWING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RESOLUTION, WE FEEL THAT A PERIOD OF TIME SHOULD BE GIVEN TO EVALUATE PROJECT PROGRESS. WE SUGGEST THAT SUBSEQUENT TO THIS TRIAL PERIOD A REVIEW BE HELD TO DETERMINE WHETHER OR NOT TO CONTINUE OUR JOINT EFFORTS. WE PROPOSE THAT THIS REVIEW TAKE PLACE EARLY IN SEPTEMBER 1978.

END TEXT. VANCE

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